

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, ASEC, UR, US

SUBJECT: SOVIET EMBASSY PROTEST OF MAKSIMOV INCIDENT

1. FOLLOWING IS INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF SOVIET EMBASSY "ORAL STATEMENT" ON MAKSIMOV INCIDENT WHICH WAS PRESENTED AS "NON-PAPER" TO SOV DIRECTOR BY COUNSELOR OF EMBASSY MYSHKOV MARCH 17, AFTER MYSHKOV HAD MADE PRESENTATION WHICH WAS CONSIDERABLY TONED DOWN VERSION OF PROTEST:

2. BEGIN TEXT. THE SOVIET EMBASSY BRINGS TO THE ATTENTION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE THE FOLLOWING SCANDALOUS PROVOCATION BY AMERICAN AUTHORITIES AGAINST A SOVIET CITIZEN IN NEW YORK CITY.

3. ON THE 14TH OF MARCH AT ABOUT 8:25 PM THE NEW YORK POLICE WITHOUT THE SLIGHTEST BASIS DETAINED AND ARRESTED
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AMTORG EMPLOYEE VIKTOR L. MAKSIMOV, WHO WAS RETURNING

HOMEIN A TAXI FROM THE PLAZA HOTEL, WHERE HE HAD A BUSINESS APPOINTMENT.

4. WITHOUT EXPLAINING THE REASONS FOR THEIR ACTION, TWO POLICEMEN AT THE CORNER OF WEST 64TH STREET AND BROAD-

WAY STOPPED THE TAXI, IN THE BACK SEAT OF WHICH MAKSIMOV WAS RIDING, PULLED HIM OUT BY FORCE, HANDCUFFED HIM, PLACED HIM IN A POLICE CAR AND TOOK HIM TO A POLICE PRECINCT AT COLUMBUS CIRCLE. MAKSIMOV WAS SUBSEQUENTLY TAKEN TO THE 20TH POLICE PRECINCT, WHERE HE WAS INFORMED THAT HE SOMEHOW "STOLE A TAXI".

5. IN CARRYING OUT THIS ILLEGAL ACTIVITY, THE POLICE CONDUCTED THEMSELVES IN AN EXTREMELY CRUDE AND HUMILIATING MANNER. MAKSIMOV SUFFERED BODILY INJURIES AND HIS COAT WAS TORN.

6. HAVING SEIZED A SOVIET CITIZEN, THE POLICE--WITHOUT MAKING ANY SORT OF ACCUSATION BASED IN FACT OR PROVIDING ANY PROOF OF HIS GUILT--DETAINED HIM FOR ALMOST 24 HOURS AND CATEGORICALLY REFUSED HIM PERMISSION TO CONTACT THE SOVIET EMBASSY. THIS WAS A DIRECT VIOLATION OF ARTICLE 12 OF THE SOVIET-AMERICAN CONSULAR CONVENTION.

7. THIS INCIDENT CAUSES BEWILDERMENT, WHEN SEEN IN THE LIGHT OF THE IMPROVING RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES, GOVERNMENTS AND AUTHORITIES, WHICH HAVE SHOWN AN ATTITUDE OF COOPERATION AND MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING IN ALL FIELDS AND WHICH STRIVE TO AVOID ACTIONS WHICH BEAR AN UNFRIENDLY CHARACTER.

8. IN CONNECTION WITH THE ABOVE THE SOVIET EMBASSY REGISTERS AN EMPHATIC PROTEST AND DEMANDS THE IMMEDIATE CESSATION OF THE PROVOCATIVE PERSECUTION OF MAKSIMOV AND THIS ENTIRE UNWORTHY FARCE IN WHICH HE IS RIDICULOUSLY CHARGED WITH STEALING A TAXI FOR THE PURPOSE OF SELLING AN AUTOMOBILE.

9. THE EMBASSY CALLS FOR THE PUNISHMENT OF THE PERSONS

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WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE ORGANIZATION AND CARRYING OUT OF THIS PROVOCATION AND INSISTS THAT MEASURES BE TAKEN TO PREVENT ANY CHANCE OF A REPETITION OF SUCH ARBITRARY ACTS AND ILLEGALITIES AGAINST SOVIET CITIZENS IN THE US. END TEXT. ROBINSON

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